



MR. and MRS. FRANK W. WARREN ... Watch Night was their anniversary

One of the many rewards of being happily married for 60 years was the delightful community reception given Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Warren on New Year's Eve at the Watch Night service held in the auditorium of the First Methodist church.

Looking especially radiant in her pretty brown silk semi-formal gown, and wearing the fragrant gardenia corsage presented her in honor of the occasion by women of the Methodist church of which she was the first Woman's Aid president.

Conner to Name 'Fight Polio' Aides Here Next Week

As head of the local organization which has successfully promoted the annual "Fight-Infantile Paralysis" campaign each January for the past six years, Postmaster Earl Conner accepted an invitation from Joseph M. Schenck, California chairman, and attended a gala luncheon meeting at the Elmore hotel in Los Angeles today.

This affair, which was nationally broadcast, served as the start of the yearly campaign which will be featured by the "March of Dimes" and benefit celebrations throughout the nation on President Roosevelt's 57th birthday, Jan. 30.

Under his direction, a large corps of "March of Dimes" button salesmen and women will canvass the entire city. Fifty percent of the proceeds will be left in the county where raised for the benefit of the chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis embracing that county.

Rhoda Murphy of Lomita Wins First Prize in Rhymes Contest

After a three hour deadlock, the jury of five good men and women tried, selected from Harbor City residents, finally made the following prize winning selections this week from the Classified Ad Rhymes contest entries:

First Prize Winner The ad: Pre-Inventory Furniture Sale Where it Pays to Walk a Half Block from Sartori and Save on Every Purchase etc. El Prado Furniture Store, C. Emmet, Owner 1220 El Prado, Tor. 1067

Three Deaths and 58 Hurt in 1939 Auto Collisions

Traffic collisions accounted for three deaths within Torrance city limits during 1939, according to Police Chief John Stroth. This was only half of the number of traffic deaths recorded here during 1938.

The 58 collisions involving motor vehicles resulted in injuries to 58 persons during the past year. Local officers issued 410 traffic citations. In 1938 there were 46 persons injured in automotive mishaps.

Chief Stroth said that the police department arrested 399 persons on misdemeanor charges in 1938 and 47 more on felony accusations.

CRIME COST SAID \$120 PER CAPITA

"Every man, woman, and child in the United States has to pay \$120 a year toward the cost of crime," said Superior Court Judge Roy V. Rhodes in Torrance Tuesday evening.

The occasion was the meeting of the Men's Club of the St. Andrews Episcopal church. Rev. Thomas R. Marshall opened the dinner meeting and Police Chief John Stroth introduced Judge Rhodes.

"Our Crime Problem and Its Solution" was Judge Rhodes' subject. "The mounting cost of crime, estimated by J. Edgar Hoover at 14 1/2 billion a year is equal to our entire tax burden. In California in particular an influx of feeble minded and un-social individuals from other states becomes daily more acute," said the jurist.

"It is absolutely essential that every good citizen work toward a scientific approach for our criminals. Criminals must be re-educated and adjusted to society before they are paroled." A program including investigation by experts before sentence and complete quarantine of the individual until he is cured of his anti-social tendencies was advocated by Judge Rhodes.

TO DISCUSS PROPAGANDA Arthur Corey of the California Teachers Association will address members and guests of the Rotary club tonight on "Propaganda in the News."

Local Resident Invents Unusual Fireplace Damper

A revolutionary type of fireplace damper, whose installation is a matter of minutes only, is the product of a local man's inventive mind. He is J. Ernest Graves, whose 20 years' experience in building fireplaces gave him valuable background for study of drafts and their control.

Graves' product is the only damper that can be installed in existing fireplaces without ripping them to pieces. A number of them have been placed in local homes and families have found the new dampers contribute materially toward throwing heat into rooms and reducing fuel consumption.

Jack Abramson was so impressed with the possibilities of Graves' invention that he sold his upholstery business to undertake the sale of the damper. His headquarters are located at 1318 Sartori avenue where full information about the fireplace accessory can be obtained and satisfactory terms arranged for deferred payments.

TRIO HURT IN YEAR'S FIRST AUTO CRASH

A 17-year-old boy was seriously injured and two girls, 15 and 22, were badly cut and bruised in 1940's first automobile collision in this area. The mishap occurred at 9 o'clock New Year's morning near the intersection of Redondo Beach boulevard and Western avenue in Moneta.

Robert Ray, 17, 2044 237th street, is confined at Torrance Memorial hospital where he is reported making slow progress toward recovery. He suffered internal injuries and concussion. Dorothy Kelly, 22, 3764 South Main street, suffered a long cut all the way around her forehead and Margaret Wilson, 15, 2129 237th street, escaped with cuts and bruises.

The trio were en route to Mt. Baldy. Young Ray was driving and he pulled over to one side of Western avenue, intending to stop in front of a restaurant but he crashed his sedan into a car parked at the curb. The impact telescoped the front of Ray's machine.

Even Motor Officer Elmo Pyle of Gardena does not know what happened at 8 o'clock New Year's Eve when he was thrown from his "iron pony" while riding along Western avenue and a few hours later recovered consciousness in Torrance Memorial hospital.

He suffered a bad cut on his forehead and was confined here for several days. Pyle believes someone threw something at him. He was found lying in the road by a passing motorist who rushed him to the hospital.

Postal Business Increases Here

Altho 1939 was not a banner year for the Torrance postoffice, it was considerably better than 1938 and topped all previous years except 1937 in gross revenue, according to a report compiled this week by Postmaster Earl Conner.

The postoffice gross last year was \$40,130.87 as compared with \$38,915.93 for 1938. The all-time record, set in 1937, was \$40,099.20. Postmaster Conner has not yet completed his report on the postal business during the December quarter but this should show an increase over the same period of 1938. Parcel post business during the recent holiday season was greater here than any time in the past, he said. The annual gross figures for the past 11 years follows:

Table with 2 columns: Year and Gross Revenue. 1939: \$40,130.87; 1938: \$38,915.93; 1937: \$40,099.20; 1936: \$36,085.95; 1935: \$28,299.52; 1934: \$25,613.94; 1933: \$20,946.79; 1932: \$20,301.91; 1931: \$23,492.19; 1930: \$29,243.59; 1929: \$31,182.28

Firemen Respond to Two Year-End Calls

Local firemen extinguished a burning automobile truck at Pennsylvania and Sepulveda avenues last Saturday morning for their final effort of 1939 to curtail damage by flames. The truck was owned by A. L. Scott of South Gate and became ignited when some gasoline was spilled on its hot exhaust pipe.

Last Thursday night the bubble tower at the Cascade Refinery plant (formerly the Torrance Refinery) blazed anew from leaks. This tower has burned several times and is now being replaced by a new one.

Rainfall Near 1939 Mark Here

With continued showers predicted for the remainder of the week, the rainfall for the past 24 hours (to 8 a. m.) amounted to 1.6 of an inch which advanced the season's total to 6.825, according to city firemen watching the rain gauge at the fire department garage. Last year at this time Torrance had received 6.97 inches.

Torrance Office Serves District Motorists



GETS FIRST PLATES ... E. S. Teter, 15235 South Vermont, Gardena, is proudly displaying his 1940 license plates, first set to be issued from the office of the California Department of Motor Vehicles at 1311 Cabrillo avenue, Torrance. Waiting his turn in line is James Terry of 1669 253rd street, Harbor City, while Police Chief John Stroth stands watch at the right. Manager Leonard E. Tristram of Los Angeles is shown behind the cashier's window.

101 New Homes Built Here During Past Year

New construction in Torrance during 1939 amounted to \$591,553, according to final figures at the city engineer's office where building permits are issued. This was less than one-third of 1938's all-time record of \$2,119,923 but that was the year of the oil boom in South Torrance when 153 oil derricks were erected, at a building permit value of \$5,000 each.

The past year saw the construction of 101 new homes here as compared with only 75 residences being built in the city during 1938. In addition to the home construction jobs in Torrance during 1939, there were 72 garages built, 35 oil derricks erected, 55 oil tanks installed, 31 industrial buildings added to the city's total, 39 alterations and repair jobs to local homes and 13 similar improvements to industrial or store buildings.

The December building permit total was \$14,560 as compared with \$68,155 for the same month of 1938. The monthly totals in building permits follows:

Table with 2 columns: Month and Permit Value. January: \$115,960; February: \$198,630; March: \$60,690; April: \$1,735; May: \$262,575; June: \$49,555; July: \$38,135; August: \$58,925; September: \$14,260; October: \$29,995; November: \$23,560; December: \$14,560

Annual totals for the past 12 years in Torrance: 1938: \$591,553; 1937: \$2,119,923; 1936: \$1,066,057; 1935: \$454,978; 1934: \$291,592; 1933: \$188,807; 1932: \$27,811; 1931: \$78,859; 1930: \$162,430; 1929: \$20,387; 1928: \$66,428; 1927: \$4,745

Torrance Host to Harbor C. C. Next Thursday

Letters announcing the plans for the dinner-meeting of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce in the Torrance Civic Auditorium, a week from tonight, Jan. 11, have been sent by President R. R. Smith of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce to the heads of all organizations affiliated with the Harbor booster association.

Minor Quake Again Jolts Southland

Old 1939 left this world badly shaken up in more ways than one. The last quiver was felt here when an earthquake of the jolting variety that shook the Southland Dec. 27 rattled windows.

Residents Favor Public Ownership After P. E. Quits

Faced with suspension of rail passenger service over Pacific Electric lines between Torrance and Los Angeles after Jan. 14, residents of Torrance and East Torrance—at least those who expressed their opinions—were almost unanimous in favor of substituting some sort of bus service, according to a compilation completed this week of a survey made by canvassers of the Western Directory Company.

Population Count by Canvassers is Under 9,000 Here

There are 8,658 men, women and children residing within the city of Torrance, according to a compilation of data just completed by canvassers of the Western Directory Company, which is shortly to issue a new city directory and street guide.

The above count includes Hollywood Riviera, North Torrance (McDonald Tract), Welteria, and all of the other territory included in the nearly 19 square miles that lie within the corporate limits of Torrance.

While the population figure is somewhat of a disappointment to civic boosters who had predicted from 10,000 to 11,000, it is a considerable gain over the Federal census figure of 1930, which gave 7,273.

Population of East Torrance, as compiled from the same source, is 1,402. Included in this count is all the territory adjoining the City of Torrance between Western and Vermont avenues, all of which forms an integral part of the trading area of this city.

Canvassers reported that many were reluctant to commit themselves on the question of city or private ownership of a bus system, there being 2,052 in Torrance and 187 in East Torrance who declined to answer this question.

DIEHL DIES LAST NIGHT

Following an illness of six months, Ambrose Nevin Diehl, 63, former president of the Columbia Steel Company, succumbed to a heart ailment at his temporary La Jolla home last night. Mr. Diehl resigned from the Columbia Steel presidency early last September, closing an active career of 40 years' service to the steel industry. He continued to hold a directorship in the U. S. Steel Corporation.

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Chicken and Dumpling Dinner 35c

—and, no foolin! Daily meals that are good, solid, tasty food, home cooked — also, only 35c. Better investigate and, remember, you do not eat the scenery, only the food. See class.

Where to Eat

NIEN'S CAFE — Home Cooked Foods and Pies. Special chicken and dumpling dinner every Wednesday, 35c. Regular daily meals, 35c. Short orders, breakfast served from 7 a. m. to 10:30 a. m. Open 7 a. m. to 8 p. m. — A hearty meal at a reasonable price.

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